

Environmental Studies Program: Ongoing Study

Study Area(s): National

Administered By: BOEM Headquarters

Title: Maritime Cultural Landscape Summit (NSL # NT-15-x10)

BOEM Information Need(s) to be Addressed: BOEM is required under the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) to establish a preservation program for the identification, evaluation, and nomination to the National Register of Historic Places those archaeological and historic properties that may be affected by the agency's actions. The Bureau is also required under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to consider the unique characteristics of geographic areas that may be in proximity to historic or cultural resources while conducting its environmental assessments. Department of the Interior (DOI) Secretarial Order Number 3330 also stipulates that DOI agencies must take a landscape-based approach in conserving natural and cultural resources. BOEM needs to engage with other Federal agencies and State and Tribal representatives to explore and discuss the characteristics of a wide range of submerged areas that may be considered as Maritime Cultural Landscapes (MCLs). BOEM's co-sponsorship of a summit to initiate a discussion towards the identification and evaluation of MCLs will be extremely beneficial and will lead to the preparation of guidance material for Federal agencies.

Total BOEM Cost: \$4,000

Period of Performance: FY 2016-2018

Conducting Organization(s): National Park Service

Principal Investigator(s): Barbara Wyatt, barbara.wyatt@nps.gov

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Description:

Background: Maritime Cultural Landscapes (MCLs) are geographic regions under or next to bodies of water that may be associated with past human activity, such as historic maritime use or the presence of paleo-cultural landforms. Some MCLs exist in regions that are now perpetually submerged while others are episodically or seasonally inundated. MCLs can be present in or adjacent to oceans, lakes, rivers, and human-made bodies of water, such as reservoirs. Trends in historic preservation include the re-evaluation of submerged regions that were originally assessed based on the individual sites they contain, the expansion of district boundaries at the intersections of water and land, increased recognition of Tribal interests in submerged sites, and a general increase in the registration of MCLs. MCLs will also be evaluated as sites or districts for purposes of determining National Register eligibility.

Objectives: The objective of this effort is to evaluate and further define MCLs, thus strengthening BOEM's cultural and historical resource preservation obligations.

Methods: A summit, which will be a collaborative effort between BOEM and the National Park Service (NPS) is scheduled for October 2015 at the University of Wisconsin in Madison, WI to discuss the identification and evaluation of MCLs. “Maritime Cultural Landscape” has not yet been formally embraced by the National Register program as a category for those geographic features that may be associated with past cultural activities, and a nomination for a property classified as an MCL has not been submitted to the National Register. Discussions at the summit will clarify how MCLs can be integrated into the National Register program and how such nominations should be structured. Guidance material for Federal agencies will also be drafted from this event, and Tribal and State representatives will be invited to attend so they can share their insights.

Current Status: This event, which was officially designated as The Maritime Cultural Landscape Symposium, was held on October 14-15, 2015 at the University of Wisconsin campus in Madison, Wisconsin. Aside from BOEM and the National Park Service (NPS), additional sponsors of the Symposium included the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the Wisconsin State Historic Preservation Office. Proceedings from this Symposium are currently being finalized to accommodate all presentation papers and transcripts, and a 2-volume document will be submitted to BOEM in lieu of a final report. The NPS National Center for Preservation Technology and Training (NCPTT) also prepared an online publication that includes presentation abstracts with links to the recorded presentations and selected papers.

Proceedings Document Due: March 31, 2018

Publications Completed:

<https://www.ncptt.nps.gov/blog/proceedings-maritime-cultural-landscape-symposium/>

Affiliated WWW Sites:

<http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/pdfs/hp/Maritime-Symposium-Agenda-Sept-29-New.pdf>

<https://marinecadastre.gov/espis/#/search/study/100094>

Revised Date: January 29, 2018